

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Zoo****Federal Tax ID: 92-0039344****Project Title:**

# Alaska Zoo - Animal Infirmary, Education Complex and Parking Improvements

**State Funding Requested: \$ 1,000,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: Anchorage Areawide (17-32)****Brief Project Description:**

Three projects targeted to secure funding for and finish in 2008. They are the gateway complex, the infirmary and the commissary.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$3,474,310**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
State Funds	\$461,000	Past Years				
Rasmuson Foundation	\$55,000	Past Years	\$10,000	08		
Other	\$1,628,800	Past Years				
Total	\$2,144,800		\$10,000			

*Explanation of Other Funds:**1.5M-HUD, 100K-Atwood, 100K-Murdock, 25K-Rasmuson,***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Alaska Zoo is on the verge of taking tremendous steps forward to provide a better equipped facility to care for its animals and serve the public. We are opening the newly renovated Seal & Otter Habitat in January of 2008. We are very close to achieving our goals of the past 5 year capital campaign and could really use the State of Alaska's financial help to close the funding gap. We have raised more than \$4.35 million and need another \$1.05 million to complete all our capital efforts. We have three projects targeted to secure funding for and finish in 2008. They are the gateway complex, the infirmary and the commissary. We are requesting \$1 million the State of Alaska to complete these efforts.

**Project Timeline:**

Completion in 2008 if funding approved

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

The Alaska Zoo

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Eileen Floyd

Phone Number: 346-2133

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No



## **Connecting People with Animals**

### **The Alaska Zoo**

The Alaska Zoo provides residents and visitors with unparalleled wildlife viewing and educational opportunities. The Alaska Zoo today is a 20-acre zoological park with 49 species and 100 plus animals on exhibit. The zoo, a private non-profit organization, is home to injured, abandoned, orphaned and endangered animals.

The Alaska Zoo is part of the fabric of our community offering many of our young residents their first up-close experience of animals native to arctic and sub-arctic climates. We have a broad range of fun and educational programs that introduce, excite and inspire residents on wildlife and conservation topics.

The Alaska Zoo is one of the state's most popular family attractions. Millions of people have passed through its doors in the zoo's 38 year history. Last year alone, more than 156-thousand people visited and our education department provided programs to 20-thousand children. We have come a long way from our humble beginnings.

## **Alaska Zoo History**

The history of the Alaska Zoo is really the story of Annabelle, the elephant, and Sammye Seawell, the zoo founder. Annabelle, an infant Asian elephant, came to Alaska in 1965 as a prize won in a Crown Zellerbach promotion. The local businessman who “won” Annabelle needed a place to house her. Soon she was boarding at the stables owned by Sammye Seawell – known for her heart for animals and ability to work with them.

The Alaska Zoo was born. In 1968, the zoo was organized as Alaska’s Children’s Zoo, a 501(c) (3). The mission of the zoo at that time was simply to provide a home for Annabelle and to allow children of all ages the opportunity to enjoy her.

The Alaska Children’s Zoo opened its doors August 2, 1969 on five acres of land. Contributors provided the down payment for the land. The site was 10 miles from the heart of Anchorage, which was then a town of 114,000 people in a state with a population of 295,000. The original collection consisted of the little elephant, a black bear cub, a pet arctic fox, a pet harbor seal, some pheasants, and six ponies. We’ve grown a little.

## **Alaska Zoo Mission Statement**

The Alaska Zoo Board of Directors adopted the following statement in 1991:

*“The mission of the Alaska Zoo is to exhibit wildlife of the arctic and sub-arctic climates, primarily Alaskan, in a natural setting, for the recreational enjoyment and educational enrichment of Alaska residents and visitors to our beautiful state.”*

The goals are to preserve a small zoological park that will always be:

- Self-supporting; not striving to be ever larger and grander until it is not economically viable in this young community in our sparsely populated state.
- A source of pride to the community, the Board of Directors, and the staff of the Zoo.

The objectives are to:

- Assure that care of the captive animals is optimal
- Preserve and enhance the natural environment
- Offer educational programs to the community that will help people understand the importance of conservation of wildlife and its natural environment.

The Zoo looks to the future with a clear vision of providing optimal care for our animals, a pleasant experience for our visitors and expanding our role as an educational institution.



**Summer Camp Program**

### **Education Programs at the Alaska Zoo**

Zoo education programs fulfill the mission of the Alaska Zoo to educate our community and visitors about orphaned and injured animals. We promote responsible attitudes towards wildlife through conservation education. Our natural and wooded zoo grounds create an excellent “outdoor classroom” backdrop for science and natural history programs of all types.

Throughout the year, we host several community-wide events in partnership with many organizations to provide educational and informative programs on a variety of wildlife and environmental conservation topics. Last year more than 20-thousand people participated in educational programs provided by the Alaska Zoo.

*“The Alaska Zoo and the Anchorage School District have worked together for many years to provide educational opportunities to the students of Anchorage, Alaska and surrounding areas. Our staff in the Community Resources Office works with zoo educational staff to coordinate field trips and provide educational materials to over 10,000 students annually.”*

*- Leslie Preston, Dir. Comm. Services, ASD*

Our programs vary in scope and design to include a wide range of audiences from toddlers to seniors to residents and visitors. We offer programs for children on zoo grounds including adventure camps, story-time programs, sketch-n-safaris, zoo explorers for girl scouts, and organized school field trip activities. We participate in Polar Bear International and send a high school student into the field to study polar bear behavior and then teach and share that information with fellow students during the school year. In summer, in addition to camps, we host family nights twice a week with weekly lectures on Tuesday nights and live music on Friday nights. ConocoPhillips Alaska is a sponsor of these popular family night programs.



## **Orphaned and Injured Animal Care**

Since opening in 1969 the Alaska Zoo has taken in, cared for and either given a home to or helped find homes for hundreds of orphaned and injured animals. Working closely with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, we help to identify other appropriate facilities needing animals. The Zoo also provides medical needs and testing, shipping crate construction along with transportation arrangements. More than thirty bears have been taken in the past twenty years along with dozens of moose calves and other animals.



In the past five years the Alaska Zoo has taken in 73 orphaned, injured and abandoned wild animals for the state of Alaska. Thirty one were given permanent homes here at the zoo. Fifteen bear cubs, 30 moose calves, 11 caribou calves and 2 musk ox calves, all orphans, were cared for until permanent homes could be found. The Zoo also took in three permanently injured animals from the lower 48.

## **The Alaska Zoo as a Breeding Facility**

The Alaska Zoo limits breeding to species where the need has been identified. We have bred musk ox and reindeer (caribou) for a number of years to help fill the needs of state and national facilities. We are an SSP (American Zoological Association Species Survival Plan) breeding facility for the highly endangered snow leopard.



We have acquired a male polar bear as a breeding companion for our female, Ahpun. A successful mating of Aphun with this five-year-old male, from Russia will provide the U.S. captive population with a new genetic line.

The zoo is also in the Amur tiger (Siberian) SSP program. We are a holding facility for Amur (Siberian) tigers.

Other future breeding programs will also include wolverines and Bactrian camels.

### **Moving Forward**

The Alaska Zoo is on the verge of taking tremendous steps forward to provide a better equipped facility to care for its animals and serve the public. We are opening the newly renovated Seal & Otter Habitat in January of 2008. We are very close to achieving our goals of the past 5 year capital campaign and could really use the State of Alaska's financial help to close the funding gap. We have raised more than \$4.35 million and need another \$1.05 million to complete all our capital efforts. We have three projects targeted to secure funding for and finish in 2008. They are the gateway complex, the infirmary and the commissary. We are requesting \$1 million the State of Alaska to complete these efforts.



**Gateway Complex**

### **Gateway Complex**

The gateway complex is the number one project targeted for completion in 2008. The project started in 2003 and is 90 percent complete. We just need to secure funding to finish the groundwork surrounding the building and pave the 200 vehicle parking lot. The facility will house the education department, gift shop, a new admissions kiosk, offices and storage as well as provide a safer and larger gathering point for schools, families and tour groups.

The building will provide the education department with its first modern permanent home. It will come equipped with a 200-seat lecture hall and a 50-seat classroom with audio/visual components. This will allow the zoo to better meet the growing community demands for services and continue in its mission of providing wildlife conservation and natural history through education.

We will be able to rent out part of the facility. It will increase our revenue streams to help maintain our operational self supporting history. The lecture hall area is 2,400 sq. ft. complete with catering facility to make it more attractive and functional for other community groups to use for banquets and meetings.

A new modern 1,600 sq. ft. gift shop is part of the new complex as well which will allow us to expand our very cramped store.

#### Gateway Complex Budget

We estimate to complete this project it will take \$2,708,353. We have raised \$2,446,280. We hope to have the remaining \$334-thousand secured by March of 2008 so we can expedite a spring construction and grand opening of the complex in June of 2008.

#### Funding Support

We've received and utilized \$1.5 million in funds from a Housing and Urban Development grant, \$100-thousand from the Atwood Foundation, \$100-thousand from the Murdock Foundation, \$311-thousand from the State of Alaska, \$25-thousand from the Rasmuson Foundation with another \$10-thousand available in a matching grant. ConocoPhillips has generously donated a matching grant for \$150,000.00 for this project and we have successfully secured the matching \$150,000.00. We have also received \$25-thousand of in-kind services from AAA Fencing and another \$2-thousand from Clark Communications. We have applied for a grant with the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation for \$150,000.00 to help finish the project. We are also applying to several other foundations and have launched the "Bear" Essentials Capital Campaign for funding these projects as well.

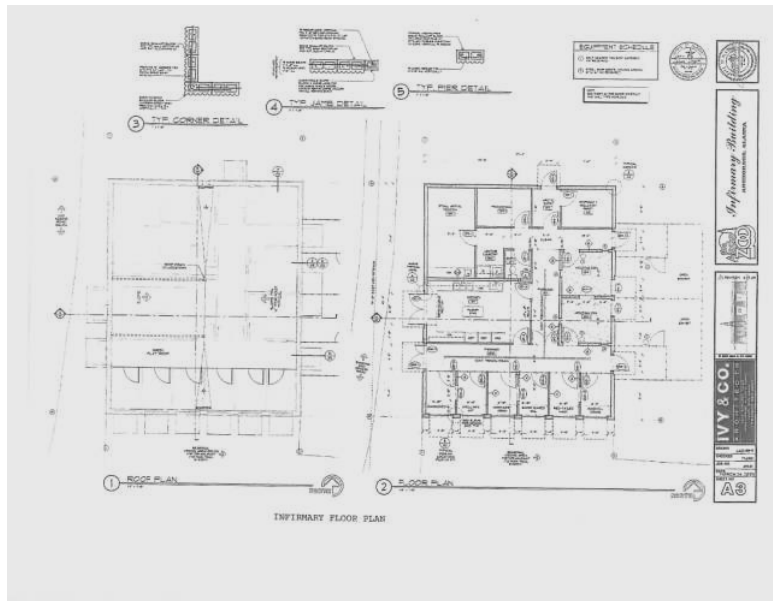
#### **New Infirmary**

Updating this facility is essential to ensuring the best care for our animals. A new infirmary will benefit every animal residing at the Alaska Zoo as well as new arrivals. Our current infirmary is one of the original buildings on the Alaska Zoo property. It was built to house, Annabelle, the elephant back in the late 60s. It has all the earmarks of a makeshift facility. The building currently houses the clinic, the animal commissary - food preparation area and is also used for storage.





The new infirmary is designed to incorporate indoor/outdoor holding areas for large animals, a wintering facility for migratory birds with a public viewing area and an isolation area for incoming animals. The permanent free standing building will allow us to have a permanent home for our sensitive and expensive medical equipment. The examination room will be equipped with viewing windows to allow the observation of some procedures for educational purposes. The new facility will be capable of handling all but the larger species. Architectural plans and permitting are complete. The new utility corridor placing water and septic lines to service this facility are already in place.



#### New Infirmary Budget

Estimates for the project total at \$430,648.00. We have spent \$30,648.00 on the new infirmary to date. We will need to raise \$400,000.00.

#### Funding Support

The Rasmuson Foundation donated \$30,648.00 to this project which we have utilized. We have been working to finish other capital projects before securing funds for this project.

## **Commissary**

As part of the zoo's infrastructure improvements, the Animal Commissary is vital to the efficient and proper handling of food products coming into the zoo. The completion of a new infirmary will allow the Alaska Zoo to dedicate the current infirmary/commissary/storage building for use solely as a commissary. The newly remodeled commissary will encompass storage areas for food items (dry, refrigerated and frozen), diet preparation area and a dish/bucket cleaning area. The dry food storage area and the diet preparation area have had minimal updates in twenty years. The current diet preparation area is in need of extensive remodeling including new interior walls, new flooring, cabinets, larger counters and sinks. The plans also call for a second level to be added onto the building. This area would be used for the staff. It would have a locker room, restrooms, shower facility and a break room.

### **Commissary Budget**

The estimate for this project is \$350,000.00.

### **Funding Support**

We are just beginning the push to secure funding for this project. The capital campaign will incorporate a three prong approach of individual donations, corporate donations and foundation requests. We have been concentrating our efforts on finishing several other capital projects prior to raising funds for this effort.

## **Leadership and Staff Qualifications**

The Alaska Zoo's current eleven-member board of directors represents a good cross-section of the public with diverse skills. We also have openings for 4 more members, allowing us to further enhance board development. The board has strong institutional knowledge of the Alaska Zoo, as the zoo founder sits on the board and 5 other members each have at least 15 years of service with the board. The board also enjoys a fresh perspective with five of the members being recent additions within last year. Our board is made up of a banker, teacher, an oil executive, the zoo founder, a public relations executive, business owners, state employees, an attorney and a construction company owner. As many of the board have families, they have the opportunity to experience the zoo through the eyes of their children as well.

In reference to the capital projects, the board brings great expertise to the table in terms of marketing and fundraising, construction and business skills. In terms of developing our education department, we are also favored in having a science educator, business owners well versed in growing operations and a marketing director on the board.

The Alaska Zoo staff is a diverse mix of 29 people and more than 60 volunteers. Key personnel to the success of these projects are:

Patrick Lampi, Executive Director – Pat brings a vast wealth of experience and institutional knowledge to the table as executive director. He has dedicated 21 years to the mission of the Alaska Zoo. Pat started as a keeper working directly with the animals on a daily basis. He spent 13 years as curator at the zoo before taking over as executive director in 2005.

Kevin Pickel, Facility Manager – Kevin serves as project manager for all capital projects and as zoo facility manager. He manages a staff of four. Kevin has been with the zoo for 15 years and in his current position for 13 years. He has 20 years experience in the construction business and is a certified carpenter.

Katie Larson, Education Director – Katie Larson was hired nine years ago to the position of Education Director. She is responsible for the development and coordination of conservation education programs and partnerships. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Kansas State University. Her previous experience in environmental education includes developing and presenting interpretive programs for two state parks in Kansas and teaching undergraduate level courses.

Eileen Floyd, Development Director – Eileen is the newest member of the Alaska Zoo team, joining in April of 2007. She has 16 years of public communications experience in Alaska. Eileen spent the last three years working as a marketing executive responsible for fundraising, advertising and media relations for various clients. Eileen was at KTVA, the CBS affiliate in Anchorage for 13 years. She was the news director for 4 years, assistant news director for 3 and a reporter for 6 years. Eileen has a bachelor's degree from UAA in Journalism and Public Communications. She holds many awards for both her marketing and journalistic efforts.

### **Strong Ties**

The Alaska Zoo was born out of a need to care for the abandoned, injured and orphaned animals of our great state. We are proud of our efforts to provide a home for these animals and our ability to provide residents and visitors with wildlife conservation experiences and education.

### **The Future is Now**

We are so close to reaching our goal of opening the gateway complex and building the new infirmary and commissary. We are working hard to achieve our goal to secure the money needed to complete these projects by spring of 2008. With your support, we can make this happen.

### **Strong Community Partnerships**

We value our partnerships with the State and look forward to working on many projects together to make our community and state a stronger and more vibrant place to live and work. Thank you.

The Alaska Zoo Capital Projects 2008

Project	Spent to Date	Yet to Spend	Total	Funds Raised	% Complete	Shortfall	Funding Sources	In-kind services
<b>Gateway Complex</b>	1,963,116.06	120,944.04	2,084,060.10	2,046,280.00	90%	37,780.10	1.5M-HUD, 100K-Atwood, 100K-Murdock, 311K-SOA, 25K-Rasmuson, 10K-Rasmuson-matching, not received yet, 150k CP	1.8K Pyramid Audio, \$25K-AAA Fence, \$2K-Clark Comm.,
Parking Lot	0.00	609,601.34	609,601.34	290,000.00	0%	319,601.34		
<b>Total</b>		<b>730,545.38</b>	<b>2,693,661.44</b>			<b>357,381.44</b>		
<b>Infirmary</b>	30,648.92	400,000.00	430,648.92	30,000.00	5%	400,648.92	30K-Rasmuson	
<b>Commissary</b>	0.00	350,000.00	350,000.00	0.00	0%	350,000.00		
<b>Totals</b>				<b>2,366,280.00</b>		<b>1,108,030.36</b>		